

TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

Blogs

Making Life Easier for Parkland Faculty & Alleviating the Overload

PEDAGOGICAL BENEFITS OF BLOGGING WITH EDUCATORS

The pedagogical benefits of blogging with educators are infinite. Blogging allows you to stay connected with teachers within your building and expand those walls to teachers around the world. You can take a discussion from one class and expand it to numerous classes you teach. Teachers can use weblogs to provide an area to point students to useful resources and discuss issues arising as part of a teaching and learning program. We have two teachers at PHS, Dave Martin and Alice Stinebaugh, using a blog to communicate between a 10th grade history class and a 12th grade economics class. The classes are working on a joint project and are teaching each other.

JUST FOR TEACHER RESOURCES:

[Why I Love to Teach](#)

Mr. Sniscak has shared this social networking site for teachers. Why I Love to Teach is a place for teachers to share great experiences that make us love the profession. Read postings of success from young and old teachers. If you have a question or idea, go to the community section and share your thoughts with others.

<http://whyilovetoteach.com/Transaction/frmHome.aspx>

[DEN Blog Network](#)

Discovery Education Network is one of the leading educational websites. The DEN website was honored with 2008 BESSIE awards! This is a great online resource for teachers to find topics to discuss in class.

<http://blog.discoveryeducation.com/>

[NEA Blog](#)

The National Education Association posts this blog as a teacher resource.

A wide variety of education news, issues and opinions are covered.

<http://www.nea.org/blogs/>

[PBS Blogs](#)

PBS is dedicated to professional development of teachers. You can find many blogs on the right side of their teacher resource webpage.

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/>

[Teacher Tips](#)

TeachingTips.com is a leading online resource for current teachers, aspiring education students, and student teachers. If you are interested in teacher certification, please visit our geographic directory. Otherwise, browse our resources or blog.

<http://www.teachingtips.com>

WHAT'S A BLOG?

The term blog describes a website with regular posts maintained by an individual or small group of bloggers. Blogs can be compared to a news diary of sorts; whereby, the blogger posts information on a regular basis. A teacher may create a blog to host regular posts related to their course and/or content area. Teachers may also create blogs as a means of communicating and collaborating with other teachers. Blogs are predominately text-driven but may include images, audio clips, and video clips. Posts are displayed in reverse chronological order, with the most recent post displayed at the top of the blog.

DID YOU KNOW



The word Blog is a contraction of the words "web" & "log"

CLASS CORNER

Parkland School District recommends [Edublogs](#), a free blogging site created for use in the classroom. It allows you to make regular posts or create static pages. If you are thinking of blogging in the classroom, be sure to talk with Jason Henry, who can help alleviate any concerns you may have with students comments and answer questions on how to monitor comments.

Edublogs is a great way to cut down on student questions on missed assignments and to keep parents in-the-know. By posting a short blog daily that overviews what students completed in class and what was collected or assigned, opens communication and lessens distraction during class. Beside posting your daily agenda, consider posting questions, links for further information, or blurbs relating your content to current events. Be sure to visit "[10 Ways to Use Your Edublog to Teach](#)" to get more ideas on how to incorporate blogging into your classroom.

Parkland School District recommends Edublogs for blogging, but reminds teachers to "use security in approving what is posted." Teachers should change discussion options in the blog settings to monitor comments before they are posted. You must make this change setting under options, as Edublogs allows all comments by default. Please visit [Edublogs FAQs](#) for more information. This section also offers alternatives for students who do not have email accounts; essentially, you can set-up multiple Edublogs accounts, but manage them all from one Gmail account.

English teacher Sandy Utsch presented a break-out session on blogging during the October 9, 2008 in-service day. Please visit the [CFF wiki](#) to access Sandy's step-by-step guide on setting up an Edublogs account. The handout also has a quick list of blog-related terms that may be useful when getting started.



ELECTRONIC LINKS

Check out the following resources by clicking on the links. Each resource focuses on blogs and education:

iTunes U - Watch videos demonstrating how universities are using blogs:

- [Blogs & Wikis](#) - Texas A&M vodcast
- [Blogs in Education](#) - Penn State podcast: Technology & Learning with Technology Symposium

NEXT ISSUE:
**United
Streaming/
iTunes U**



wikispaces
wikis for everyone

Head over to the [CFF wikispace](#) to watch a short video entitled ***Blogs in Plain English***.